



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

February 29, 2000

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Brent M. Christensen, Esquire  
Two Mid America Plaza, Suite 800  
Oakbrook, IL 60181

RE: MUR 4896

Dear Mr. Christensen:

On May 13, 1999, the Federal Election Commission received your complaint alleging certain violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act").

After considering the circumstances of this matter, the Commission has determined to exercise its prosecutorial discretion and to take no action against the respondents. See attached narrative. Accordingly, the Commission closed its file in this matter on February 29, 2000. This matter will become part of the public record within 30 days.

The Act allows a complainant to seek judicial review of the Commission's dismissal of this action. See 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(8).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Velasquez, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

John R. Velasquez, Jr.  
Acting Central Enforcement Docket Supervisor

Attachment  
Narrative

20105-963-40-02

MUR 4896  
Suburban O'Hare Commission

The complainant, Brent Christensen, alleges that the Suburban O'Hare Commission ("SOC"), a consortium of 11 municipalities, failed to provide a disclaimer for an advertisement it placed in three Chicago newspapers that the complainant believes contains express advocacy for Representative Henry Hyde and against Senator John McCain. In addition to naming the SOC as a respondent, the complainant named eleven towns and mayors.

In response to the complaint, the SOC denies that the advertisement constitutes express advocacy because it does not urge readers to vote for or against a particular candidate. The respondent further asserts that this ad is part of the Commission's long-standing practice of public advocacy about issues affecting Chicago O'Hare's Airport and its contiguous communities.

This matter is less significant relative to other matters pending before the Commission.